

# City of Cincinnati

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## Macy's Music Festival Weekend Traffic and Parking CITY OF CINCINNATI SPECIAL EVENT ACCESS AND PARKING TIPS

Music Fusion Week, highlighted by the Macy's Music Festival at Paul Brown Stadium, one of the longest running R&B festivals in the country, is nine days of music on 50 stages. The week will begin with a free public concert on Friday, July 20 at 7 p.m. on Fountain Square and close with an Incubus concert at Riverbend Music Center on Sunday, July 29 at 8 p.m. For information about all of the events and activities scheduled for "Music Fusion Week" log on to [www.cincinnatiusa.com](http://www.cincinnatiusa.com).

For the Macy's Music Festival Weekend, the greatest parking demand will occur on Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28 in the late afternoon and evening. Many of the Riverfront parking spaces will be reserved for Reds prepaid parking pass holders. However, the attached map details parking options.

It is important to plan travel and parking needs to ensure a hassle-free trip and an enjoyable time when you visit those events in downtown Cincinnati. There are more than enough parking spaces on the Riverfront, in downtown Cincinnati, and in Northern Kentucky to accommodate the expected crowds at these events. It is important to arrive early to get the best parking and plan ahead.

To make the Music Fusion Week, 2007 a successful and fun-filled time, people are encouraged to keep the following traffic tips in mind:

- Know where to go
- Get there early for good parking
- Use public transportation
- Call ahead

## **KNOW WHERE TO GO**

Recommended access routes to these events will depend on your parking plans, whether or not you have a prepaid parking pass to the Reds game, and the time you plan to arrive downtown.

Reds fans who have prepaid passes will access the Riverfront directly via Second or Third Streets. All other access to riverfront activities will need to utilize parking in downtown Cincinnati, far-east and far-west riverfront parking, or parking in Northern Kentucky during scheduled times for Reds games. The following routes are suggested:

### **From I-71 Southbound:**

- **Riverfront access:** Take the Reading Road/Gilbert Avenue exit and follow Gilbert to Court Street. Turn right onto Court and then turn left onto Reedy. From Reedy, turn left onto Eggleston Avenue and follow Pete Rose Way which either leads to prepaid parking areas near the Great American Ballpark or passes general parking. Eventually, the route goes to Paul Brown Stadium where cash lots will be available for Music Festival parking on a first-come, first-serve basis. Or, continue south on I-71 to the Third Street exit and follow Third Street to downtown parking locations if you arrive early and event traffic is light.

### **From I-71/75 Northbound:**

- **Riverfront access:** Exit at Second Street and follow Second Street east to Riverfront parking if you have a prepaid parking pass. If you do not have a prepaid parking pass, exit at Fifth Street in Covington and use the Kenton County Garage or the park and ride lot near the former Jillian's, or exit at Fifth Street in Cincinnati and use Central Avenue or Fifth Street to access general parking.

### **From I-75 Southbound**

- **Riverfront access:** Exit at Freeman Avenue and follow to Mehring Way or exit at Second Street if you have a prepaid parking pass or if you arrive early and event traffic is light. If you do not have a prepaid parking pass and the riverfront is congested, exit at Seventh Street and park downtown.

### **From Columbia Parkway**

- **Riverfront access:** Exit at the Third Street exit and follow Third Street to downtown parking locations if you have a prepaid parking pass. If you do not have a prepaid parking pass, and the riverfront is congested, exit at Sixth Street and park in northern downtown.

### **From I-471 North**

- **Riverfront access:** Take the US 50/Third Street exit to Third Street and access downtown parking if you have a prepaid parking pass. If you do not have a prepaid parking pass, and the riverfront is congested, exit at Sixth Street to park in northern downtown.

Getting to these events is only half the fun – getting home is just as easy. Motorists can access the major highways and roads by the following routes:

- **I-75/71 South:** Follow Third Street to the on-ramp or to the Clay Wade Bailey Bridge to Covington, Kentucky, and then south to Pike Street. I-75/71 South can also be accessed in Cincinnati by following Ninth Street west to the on ramp.

- **I-75 North:** Take Central Avenue north to Fourth Street or Sixth Street west.
- **I-71 North or I-471 South:** Take Second Street to the I-71 North and I-471 South entrance ramps, or use Broadway to Fifth Street to the entrance ramps, or take Central Parkway/Reading north to entrance ramps at Liberty and Elsinore.
- **Columbia Parkway East:** Take Second Street to the Columbia Parkway/US 50 ramp, or use Broadway to Fifth Street and access the Columbia Parkway/US 50 ramp from Fifth Street.

**The following street closures will occur to support certain events:**

Main Street between Second Street and Mehring Way will be closed prior to and during Reds games as this area is reserved for drop-off activity.

Elm Street between Second Street and Theodore M. Berry Way will be closed for Festival 513, beginning Friday July 27 at 6 PM and will reopen sometime early Sunday morning, July 29, 2007. Festival 513 is a street festival of music, vendors, arts, crafts and more.

Walnut Street between Freedom Way and Second Street as well as Freedom Way between Rosa Parks Street and Walnut Street will be closed for FreedomFest on Friday, July 27, 2007 after 6 PM and will reopen sometime early Sunday morning, July 29, 2007. FreedomFest, held at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, is a family-friendly event featuring over 10 acts.

The following street segments will have parking restricted beginning at 6 PM on Friday, July 27, 2007 and ending at 4 AM on Sunday July 29, 2007. Temporary signs designating these restrictions will be installed at or around 4 PM on Thursday, July 26, 2007 to ensure plenty of advance notice to those who normally park in these areas. These parking restrictions are being provided to ensure safe and effective traffic flow in and around the various event areas:

Fifth Street between Central Avenue and Vine Street	Both Sides
Sixth Street between Central Avenue and Walnut Street	Both Sides
Race Street between Fourth Street and Seventh Street	Both Sides
Elm Street between Fourth Street and Seventh Street	Both Sides
Vine Street between Fourth Street and Seventh Street	Both Sides
Main Street between Central Parkway and Thirteenth Street	Both Sides
Twelfth Street between Clay Street and Sycamore Street	Both Sides

**GET THERE EARLY FOR GOOD PARKING**

For the Music Fusion Week 2007, the greatest parking demand will occur on Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28 in the late afternoon and evening. Many of the Riverfront parking spaces will be reserved for Reds prepaid parking pass holders. A map is attached to this press release that shows suggested parking for events at the Great American Ball Park, Paul Brown Stadium, and other locations within the Downtown area. Many slightly remote parking lots are offering discount parking rates to encourage participating in this week's events. There will be \$1 parking rates at the following city-owned facilities: Fountain Square South Garage (under the Westin); Gramercy Garage, Garfield Garage, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Garage. There will be \$5 event parking rates at the city-owned lot at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Central Avenue.

If you do not have a prepaid parking pass for one of the events you should arrive to the event venue early, especially if you plan to park on the riverfront. If you arrive late and do not have a prepaid parking pass you should consider parking north of Fifth Street in downtown. All other event parking will most likely have to occur in the “general” parking areas shown on the map. These general parking areas are available on a first-come, first-serve basis in lots designated on the map with a “P.” Handicap parking for all riverfront events is also shown on the map.

Buses and RVs going to the Macy’s Music Festival should use lot E and buses going to the Reds ball games should use the Riverfront Transit Center.

### **USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

The best way to beat the crowds is to use public transportation provided by the Metro and by the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK). This is a quick and convenient way to reach these events and avoid the cost of parking.

The Metro will provide their normal services throughout this week. For complete information on boarding points, fares, and routing for the Metro, contact MetroCenter at 513-621-4455 or visit the web site at [www.sorta.com](http://www.sorta.com).

In addition to their normal weekend schedule, TANK will operate the Southbank Shuttle to transport fans from Northern Kentucky to Cincinnati. Patrons can catch the Southbank Shuttle at all Northern Kentucky riverfront hotels and all downtown hotels in Cincinnati.

Park and Ride lots are also located throughout Covington and Newport including the very convenient Kenton County Garage. For more information about the Southbank Shuttle and routing of TANK buses, contact TANK at 859 331-TANK or visit [www.tankbus.org](http://www.tankbus.org).

### **CALL AHEAD**

Up-to-the-minute traffic conditions are accessible by phone. This is the best way to find out if the riverfront area is congested. Just call the ARTIMIS 511 number from any touch-tone phone and key in specific route codes to receive up-to-the-minute traffic information and estimated travel times. Out of town visitors may need to call (513) 333-3333 for this service. Also, follow the guidance provided by the ARTIMIS message signs that are located throughout the regions expressway system. For more information about ARTIMIS, log on to [www.artimis.org](http://www.artimis.org).

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